

In the claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of treating a health disorder selected from the group consisting of chronic heart failure, congestive heart failure, ischemic condition, arrhythmia, angina pectoris, hypertension, hypoinsulinemia, hyperinsulinemia, hyperaldosteronemia, epilepsy, a neurodegenerative disease and preterm labor in an animal suffering from said disorder, the method comprising administering an effective amount of an active agent to said animal, wherein said active agent consists of at least one extract of *Hypericum perforatum*, and wherein said extract of *Hypericum perforatum* is the only active agent administered according to the method.

2-7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said animal is a human.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount is about 0.05 mg to 500 mg per kg body weight of said animal.

11-17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said extract of *Hypericum perforatum* is a methanol or ethanol extract of *Hypericum perforatum*.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the health disorder is chronic heart failure.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is congestive heart failure.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is ischemic condition.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is arrhythmia.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is angina pectoris.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is hypertension.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is hypoinsulinemia.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is hyperinsulinemia.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is

hyperaldosteronemia.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is epilepsy.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is a neurogenerative disease.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said health disorder is preterm labor.

39. (Previously presented) A method of inhibiting T-type calcium current in cells in an animal comprising administering to an animal in need of such inhibition a composition comprising an effective amount of an extract of *Hypericum perforatum* and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefore.

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39, wherein said animal suffers from chronic heart failure, congestive heart failure, ischemic condition, arrhythmia, angina pectoris, hypertension, hypoinsulinemia, hyperinsulinemia, diabetes mellitus, hyperaldosteronemia, epilepsy, a neurogenerative disease or preterm labor.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said animal is a human.

42. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein one or more components of said extract other than hypericin contribute to the inhibition of the T-cell calcium current.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said composition consists essentially of an effective amount of an extract of *Hypericum perforatum*.

44. (Currently amended) A method for treating a health disorder in which T-type calcium current is implicated,

wherein the health disorder is chronic heart failure, congestive heart failure, ischemic condition, arrhythmia, angina pectoris, hypertension, hypoinsulinemia, hyperinsulinemia, diabetes mellitus, hyperaldosteronemia, epilepsy, a neurodegenerative disease or preterm labor,

the method comprising

inhibiting the T-type calcium current in the cells of an animal having such a health disorder by administering a T-type calcium current inhibiting amount of *Hypericum perforatum*.